

THE TRANSCRIPT.

ST. ALBANS.

Friday, March 17, 1865.

The Extra Session.

We publish in full the proceedings of the Extra Session of the Vermont Legislature, and presume the debates in regard to the repeal of the act closing the affairs of the Franklin County Bank, and the modes of ratifying the constitutional amendment, will be read with attention. The proceedings necessarily occupy much space. Walton's Journal, in alluding to the synopsis of the debate as to the mode of ratifying an amendment to the Federal Constitution, remarks that "a fact not adverted to, shows very clearly that the approval of the Executive is not essential; and it is that the alternative modes provided for are, 1st, by the State Legislatures; or, 2d, by Conventions. With the latter, certainly the Executive could have no official connection except by power specially given. But the Executive approval does not invalidate an act of ratification, because it is still the act of the Legislature." We think the Supreme Court of the United States would sustain such an act, even against an Executive veto.

With regard to the action of the Legislature, it was what might have been expected. Vermont has always been an anti-slavery State and unanimity might reasonably have been anticipated.

There was, of course, a difference of opinion about the expediency of calling a special session for the purpose of ratifying the constitutional amendment. Whether it was worth while or not, Vermont has signified her assent to the abolition of slavery, and is the eighteenth State to ratify the amendment. Nine more States must ratify before it will become the law of the land.

The Thirty Eighth Congress came to an end March 4th, 1865. The following are among the most important bills passed:

The Six Hundred Million Loan Bill; The Indian Appropriation Bill; The Pacific Railroad Bill, granting the right to issue bonds provided for heretofore, to the extent of one hundred millions in advance of the construction of the road; The Bill to establish a home for Disabled Soldiers, incorporating Lieut. Gen. Grant and ninety-nine others, the capital to consist of a million of dollars, made up of military fines, deductions from pay, and donations; The Civil Appropriation Bill, with large additions; The Tax Bill; The Coinage Bill; and many bills of a private character. A joint resolution that the Government will never recognize the rebel debt, was passed, and a bill, removing all disqualification of color in carrying mails, was passed.

Grand Isle County Court.

February Term, 1865.

The February Term of the Grand Isle County Court was held at North Hero, commencing February 28th, 1865, Hon. Asa O. Aldis, presiding Judge, and Hon. David Sweet, of Alburgh Springs, and Hon. Gilbert Allen, of South Hero, Assistant Judges. The first week was occupied with the trial of the case entitled Goodsell vs. Hyde vs. Montgomery and Holcomb. On Saturday afternoon, March 4, the Jury found a verdict for the plaintiff to recover \$525.00 and cost. Messrs. G. Harrington and George F. Houghton, for plaintiff; and Messrs. Beardsley and Edson and Rand for defendants. On Monday, March 6th, the trial of John Carle vs. Jabez G. Rockwell and Edwin H. Landon was commenced, and on Wednesday, March 8th, the Jury found a verdict for the plaintiff to recover \$125, and cost; Messrs. Edson and Rand for plaintiff, and Messrs. Harrington, Beardsley and Houghton, attorneys for defendant.

The next Jury trial, Ephraim A. Holcomb vs. Ira Hill and Jared P. Hall, was begun and partly finished when, by reason of the sudden illness of Hon. Giles Harrington, the case was continued; Messrs. Harrington and George F. Houghton, attorneys for the plaintiff, and Messrs. Beardsley, Edson and Rand for defendant.

The Grand Jury reported six bills. Frederick A. Burnett, a lad 12 years of age, pleaded guilty of stealing a \$3.00 bill from Benjamin Gordon of Alburgh, and was sentenced to thirty days imprisonment in the county jail. Nelson Carterot was fined \$10, and \$12 cost, for an assault and battery, and was sentenced to stand committed until sentence was complied with.

On completing the court business, the court adjourned on Thursday at noon, March 9th, after an unusually laborious session of ten days.

Hon. Winslow C. Watson, of Port Kent, N. Y., has published the "Pioneer History of the Champlain Valley."

ley." The Plattsburgh Republican says that for the work in which he has engaged Mr. Watson is preeminently qualified. "He is a clear, forcible and polished writer and zealous antiquarian. He delights in gathering the traditions and reminiscences of former times; and having collected them from old and forgotten journals, chests of dusty papers and the recollections of the aged, he, with rare ability, weaves them together in a most interesting narrative."

President Lincoln has issued a proclamation, notifying all deserters from the military or naval service to report for duty within sixty days from the 10th instant, or they will be deemed to have forfeited all rights of citizenship. The proclamation grants a full pardon to all deserters who may return to their duty within the specified time.

Two National banks in Vermont were authorized last week, to-wit: Montpelier Bank, president James R. Langdon, cashier Charles A. Reed, capital \$300,000; and the First National Bank, Burlington, president Levi Underwood, cashier Charles A. Sumner, capital \$300,000.

Legislature of Vermont.

EXTRA SESSION.

MONTPELIER, March 9, 1865.

Pursuant to a Proclamation of the Governor, the members of the Senate and House of Representatives met in their respective chambers at 10 o'clock A. M.

SENATE. The President took the chair, and on the call of the roll 26 of the 30 Senators answered to their names.

A resolution, for a committee to inform the Governor that the Senate is ready to proceed to business, was adopted; and Senators Chapman and Rubie were appointed for that purpose.

A resolution, that the Secretary inform the House of the same fact, was also adopted.

The following message was received from the Governor:

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

I herewith transmit, for your consideration and action, the resolution of Congress proposing an amendment of the Constitution of the United States, and submitting to the Legislatures of the several States the question of its ratification. The assent of three-fourths of the States must be given before it can become a part of the organic law. Seventeen of the required number have already set their seal to the ratification.

The magnitude of the measure, and its influence upon the great questions which now absorb the attention of the Government, and which increase in importance with the waning prospects of the rebellion, render an early and prompt ratification of the amendment the surest means of strengthening the Government, and has justified to my own mind the expediency of a special convocation of the Legislature at this time.

It is not necessary that I should urge the measure upon your attention. Ever earnest and uniform in her adherence to the great principles of constitutional liberty, uncompromising in her opposition to slavery, the persistent advocate of emancipation, early in the field and foremost in the fight in support of the Government, Vermont has written her history in characters too vivid and clear to admit of a doubt as to her action on a question so vital as this.

I would therefore recommend the prompt action of the two Houses in ratifying the proposed amendment, with a view to an immediate adjournment, with as little expense as possible may be imposed upon the State.

J. GREGORY SMITH.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Montpelier, March 6, 1865.

A RESOLUTION.

Submitting to the Legislatures of the several States a proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, (two-thirds of both Houses concurring,) That the following article be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said legislatures, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as a part of the said Constitution, namely:

ARTICLE XIII.
SECTION I. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

SECTION 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Approved February 1, 1865.

The message was referred to a select committee consisting of five Senators to be appointed by the President, and Senators Englesby, Smith, Richmond and Hutchinson were appointed such committee.

On motion the rules of the October session, 1864, were adopted as the rules of this special session.

Senator Chapman proposed to pay actual expenses, instead of mileage and debentures; but his proposition was rejected.

Senator Clark introduced a bill changing the venue in certain criminal cases (changing the act of 1864 to prevent raids) which was referred to committee on the judiciary.

AFTERNOON.

SENATE. Senator Englesby, for

select committee to whom was referred the Governor's message, reported 8 bill No. 2, to ratify the amendment to the Constitution, which was passed.

Senator Englesby, from the judiciary committee, reported 8 bill No. 1, for change of venue in certain cases; and it was passed.

A joint resolution to ratify the amendment of the constitution was received from the House, and referred to the select committee on the subject.

The committee had leave to sit during the session of the Senate, and subsequently Senator Englesby reported adversely to the foregoing joint resolution, and concurrence therein was refused.

The House resolution for final adjournment was concurred in.

House bill fixing compensation of officers for services at this session was passed in concurrence; also bill making appropriation for expenses of the session.

On motion of Senator Abbott, the Secretary was directed to inform the Governor and the House that the Senate had completed its business: when, after receiving a like message from the Governor and House, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE. The speaker took the chair, when the chaplain of the House, Rev. A. L. Cooper of Montpelier, opened the session with reading of the 97th Psalm and with prayer.

The proclamation of the Governor was read.

The roll was then called.

The clerk was directed to inform the Senate that the House had concurred and is ready to proceed with the business of the session.

The clerk was directed to deliver a like message to the Governor.

The joint rules and joint standing committees of the last session were adopted for the present session.

By resolution by Mr. Soule of Fairfax, the rules and standing committees of the last session were adopted for the present session.

The Governor, by Samuel Williams, secretary of civil and military affairs, communicated the following message. [See Senate proceedings.]

On motion of Mr. Nicholson, three hundred copies of the message was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Colby introduced a bill to ratify the proposed amendment of the constitution; which was twice read and referred to the committee on the judiciary.

Mr. Dorr moved that a select committee of one member from each county be appointed to report a joint resolution to ratify the proposed amendment.

Mr. Dorr suggested that the mode of ratification, authorized by the constitution of the United States and provided for in the resolution of Congress, is "by the Legislature of the several States;" and therefore that the most proper way is to proceed by a joint resolution and not by a bill.

There is a material difference in the two modes, inasmuch as a bill must be submitted to the Governor for approval; so that in case the Governor of any State should happen to disagree with "the Legislature," he might prevent it from exercising its constitutional right to vote for the ratification of an amendment.

Mr. Colby said both modes had been pursued in other States. It seemed to him that the most formal and solemn manner of proceeding, and therefore the most fit one on so grave a question, would be by bill. However if it be best to proceed by joint resolution the judiciary committee can so report.

The motion of Mr. Dorr was then agreed to; and on motion of Mr. Stewart, the House took a recess of half an hour to give the speaker an opportunity to select the committee.

On reassembling, the speaker announced the select committee as follows:

Rutland County—Mr. Dorr of Rutland.

Addison—Mr. Stewart of Middlebury.

Bennington—Mr. Thomas of Arlington.

Caledonia—Mr. Bullard of St. Johnsbury.

Chittenden—Mr. Barstow of Shelburne.

Essex—Mr. Sewell of Lunenburg.

Franklin—Mr. Wilson of Bakersfield.

Grand Isle—Mr. Wheeler of South Hero.

Lamoille—Mr. Collins of Wolcott.

Orange—Mr. Hebard of Chelsea.

Orleans—Mr. Cushing of Barton.

Washington—Mr. Ferrin of Montpelier.

Windham—Mr. Waite of Brattleboro.

Windsor—Mr. Colby of Hartland.

Mr. Pratt asked leave to introduce a bill to repeal an act therein mentioned.

Mr. Wilson of Bakersfield suggested that the House should entertain no business except that for which the legislature has been convened, and moved that the bill be laid upon the table without reading; which was agreed to.

Mr. Wilson then introduced a resolution excluding all business except on the constitutional amendment.

Mr. Stewart of Middlebury suggested that the act of the last session to change the venue of action (in the case of the raiders) is unconstitutional in the opinion of the supreme court, and therefore that it may be best to repeal or change it.

The resolution of Mr. Wilson was rejected; when he called up the bill of Mr. Pratt, which was to repeal the act of the last session relating to closing the affairs of Franklin County Bank.

Mr. Barlow said he had no doubt the bank would redeem all bills held honestly, and he thought it not best to repeal the act. He moved to dismiss the bill.

Mr. Stewart said he had learned that the bank did not elect directors in January, and that there seems to be nobody who can be held responsible.

Mr. Barlow said no election had been made, but still the directors elected previously are responsible on their bonds. He was sure that the bank is as sound and safe as any bank in the State. The clamor against it comes from brokers and others who wish to speculate in the bills.

Mr. Hinman said a citizen of his town had sent bills for redemption, and the bank refused them.

Mr. Barlow said all that is necessary for any holder of bills to do is to make an affidavit that he is a bona fide owner.

Messrs. Wilson of Bakersfield and Waite of Brattleboro had no doubt that the directors are responsible on their bonds, and the repeal of the act would be an injury to the public rather than to the bank.

Mr. Pratt said the directors require more than an affidavit of honest ownership. The bill holders have been required to prove that they held the bills previous to the raid—for instance, a widow in his part of the State, a depositor in a savings bank.

Mr. Nicholson said the debate shows an issue of facts which cannot be tried in a week. He objected to complicating a grand event of the ages, for which the dial of Time has been long waiting by this two cent business.

If the bank refuses to redeem, the holder has only to take his remedy in the courts at once.

Mr. Wilson asked if the widow had not received her money.

Mr. Pratt admitted that it was so, through a threat of the Savings Bank to carry the matter into court. He did not wish to force parties into court.

Mr. Wilson said the bank must require proof that bills offered were not part of the stolen bills. Bill-holders ought not to complain of that.

Mr. Lynde of Williamstown and Mr. Cushing of Barton stated instances of complaint in their vicinity.

Mr. Kimball of Putney inquired whether the bank cannot and will not pursue the same course if the act shall be repealed; if, indeed, the effect of the act is not merely to fix the last of June next as a limit beyond which holders cannot present their bills.

Mr. Bullard of St. Johnsbury suggested that the Canadian government is to refund the stolen money, and therefore that there is now no good reason for the act of the last session.

He was much dissatisfied with the course of the bank—there is too much of the sharper about it; or, at any rate, such is the impression among the public.

Mr. Stewart said the only remedy that seems to be suggested by the debate is, that the time for the redemption of the bills shall be extended; but he was disposed to concur with the gentleman from Wallingford.

Mr. Barlow said the Canadian Government has not refunded yet; they propose to refund only, that part of the money which was given up to the raiders by the marshal at Montreal, and that is on condition that the raiders are given up. They are not given up yet and the Canadian judge seems to be conveniently sick. The only purpose of the bank is to protect itself against the stolen money. They have a right to do that, both moral and legal; they are doing it; and it has happened more than once that the bank has found that the money presented to it for redemption, by the persons who make all the clamor, was actually part of the stolen money.

The bill was dismissed. Adjourned.

HOUSE.—Mr. Dorr from the select committee to whom had been referred the Governor's message, reported a joint resolution to ratify the amendment to the Constitution of the U. S. proposed by Congress, which, after reciting the amendment in a preamble, is in the following words:

"Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives, that the said proposed amendment to the Constitution of the U. S. be, and the same is hereby ratified by the Legislature of the State of Vermont."

After a brief speech by Mr. Dorr in support of the resolution, Mr. Pease of Norwich moved to amend the preamble by adding the following words:

"With gratitude to Almighty God for the privilege, and with devout confidence in the ultimate and speedy consummation of this great measure of national justice and policy."

Mr. Pease said he desired to express his own feelings by this amendment; and whether accordant with legislative forms or not, he was sure it would be accordant with the feelings of the House. As much, however, as he desired to put on record his own feelings, he would do nothing to impair the unity of the House on this question. He wanted a unanimous vote; and if a single man had any doubt, he would implore him to consider a few questions. Has not the negro had enough of the cup of bitterness—full, and running over? Has not the white man, North and South, had enough of the brutalizing effects of slavery? Has not the Government had enough to do with it, and more than enough in the existing rebellion? Have not the politics and the politicians of the country had enough to do with it?

Here the Senate bill to ratify the amendment was received, and Mr. Barlow of St. Albans moved to lay the pending resolution on the table for the purpose of considering the Senate bill.

Mr. Deane of Cavendish favored the motion with a view to a speedy settlement of the question.

Mr. Dorr of Rutland opposed the motion. Either mode, by resolution or by bill, will be effectual to give the assent of Vermont to the amendment; but he had a choice of modes. He would not require the assent of the Governor. Of course that would not be objectionable here and now, as the Governor is in full sympathy with both branches of the Legislature; but it is objectionable as a precedent for other States now, and for Vt. in the future. The Senate of the U. S. expressly declared that the approval of the President is not essential to a proposal of amendment, and he had no doubt that the Senate intended to declare, by fair implication at least, that the signature of a Governor of a State is not essential to the ratification of an amendment.

Mr. Nicholson said that to concede that either mode is effectual is to concede the whole question as to action here, since nobody apprehends a veto. If a ratification by bill is good, he thought it best to act courteously to the Senate and in harmony with it. He would not permit any choice of modes to interfere with harmony in an act which he had labored and longed for through many years; nor would he debate the question. It is neither a time nor a subject for debate, but for prompt and harmonious action.

Mr. Colby said that in any event the House ought to extend to the Senate the courtesy of considering its bill. As to precedent, the House will establish no new one in proceeding by bill, as the Legislature of 1864 proceeded in that way.

Mr. Deane thought gentlemen erred in not counting the Governor as a coordinate branch of the Legislature. Massachusetts has acted by bill and her act bears the signature of Gov. Andrews. He was for harmony, as well as other gentlemen; and he wished to give the Governor an opportunity to act in harmony with the House.

Mr. Stewart of Middlebury said the Constitution describes the Legislature as consisting of the Senate and House, and makes the Governor the Executive officer. On this measure he would stand on principle for popular rights, and hold that the Legislatures may ratify without the approval of the Governor. It is true that it will make no difference in Vermont; but it is also true that it may make a material difference in States where more than a majority vote is required to override an Executive veto. In some of the States, (as in Vt.) the Legislature alone, without the approval of the Governor, can pass a joint resolution, while in the same States perhaps a bill cannot be passed over a veto without a two-thirds or three-fourths vote. Possibly, then, Kentucky and New Jersey may ratify by the joint resolution of the Legislature, cannot do so by bill. He thought that both the Constitution and Congress contemplated the action of the people on amendments—"We the people"—through their proper representatives, in legislatures or conventions.

The motion to lay the resolution on the table was rejected, the amendment of Mr. Pease was agreed to, and the resolution was then UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED—ayes 218, noes none.

The announcement of this vote was received with applause.

The judiciary committee reported house bill to ratify the constitutional amendment with the recommendation that it do not pass, as the House has already adopted a joint resolution for the same purpose; and the third reading of the bill was refused.

Mr. Hyde of Castleton introduced a bill to pay the officers of the Senate and House for services at the present session; referred to committee of ways and means.

Senate bill No. 2, to ratify the amendment of the Constitution, was twice read and referred to judiciary committee.

Senate bill No. 1, for change of venue in certain cases, was passed on motion of Mr. Stewart of Middlebury.

Mr. Ferrin of Montpelier introduced a joint resolution, that both Houses adjourn without day at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Mr. Kimball of Putney moved to substitute 8 instead of 9, which was agreed to, and the resolution was adopted.

The committee of ways and means reported the bill to pay officers of the Senate and House \$75 each. Mr. Colby moved to pay the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House \$50 each, and the Assistants \$25 each, which was agreed to, and the bill was passed.

The judiciary committee reported Senate bill No. 2, to ratify the constitutional amendment.

The bill was read the third time, when Mr. Barlow of St. Albans moved the previous question, which was seconded by the House, and the question ordered to be put.

AYES 217.—NOES 2.

So the bill was PASSED IN CONCURRENCE.

Mr. Lynde of Williamstown demanded to have his reason for voting against the amendment of the Constitution placed on the journal of the House; the reason being that the mode of ratification, by bill instead of a joint resolution, is a dangerous one. He heartily approved of the amendment of the Constitution.

Mr. Pratt introduced a resolution that the clerk, in publishing the proceedings of this session, be instructed to include a statement of the names of members who were present and did not vote, and the names of absentees, on the vote adopting the constitutional amendment.

Mr. Nicholson suggested, that it may be perfectly understood, that those members who are present and have not voted are liable to the charge of being present for pay, not patriotism. The resolution was then adopted.

The committee of ways and means reported a bill appropriating \$7,500 for expenses of this session; and on motion of Mr. Dorr, the bill was passed.

On motion of Mr. Dorr, ordered that when the House adjourns, it adjourn to meet at 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

The Governor having announced that he had signed the several bills passed at this session, the usual messages were exchanged, and the House adjourned.

Friday, March 10, 8 A. M.

The presiding officers adjourned both Houses sine die.

LATE WAR NEWS.

WISCONSIN, March 10.

Lieut. Gen. Grant.

The enemy made a heavy attack upon our centre and left to-day, but was decisively repulsed with heavy loss. Their dead and badly wounded were left upon the field. We also took several hundred prisoners. Our loss is small. General Couch is only 12 miles from here, to-night, and will be up early in the morning. We took prisoners from Lee's and Stewart's corps. They say two corps are here, and the rest of Johnston's army is coming.

J. M. SCHOFIELD, Major General.

NEW YORK, March 12.

The Herald prints a letter from Sherman to Wade Hampton, stating that in consequence of foraging parties having been murdered by rebels, after being captured, and labels attached to their bodies of "death to all foragers," that he has ordered a similar number of prisoners in our hands to be dispatched in like manner; that he holds one thousand rebel prisoners and can stand it as long as Hampton can. The rebel General responds that he knows nothing of such murders and that for every soldier executed by Sherman, he will execute two federals, picking out officers as the first victims. He makes a long story about barbarities allowed to be practiced by Sherman's army, and concludes by stating that he shall hold fifty-six prisoners as hostage for those ordered to be executed by Sherman.

WAR DEPT., WASHINGTON, March 13, 10 A. M.

To Maj. Gen. Dix.

The following report of Gen. Sheridan's operations has been received by this Department from Lieut. Gen. Grant.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Sec. of War.

HEADQUARTERS MIDDLE MILITARY DIVISION, COLUMBIA, VA., March 10.

To Lieut. Gen. Grant.

In my last dispatch, dated Waynesboro', I gave a brief account of the defeat of Early by Custar's division. The same night this division was pushing across the Blue Ridge, and entered Charlottesville at 2 P. M. the next day, the mayor of the city delivering up the keys of the public buildings. I had to remain at Charlottesville two days. This time was consumed in bringing our forces over from Waynesboro' and our ammunition and pontoon trains. The weather was horrible beyond description and the rain incessant. The two divisions were during this time occupied in destroying the large iron bridges, one over the Rappahannock river, the other over Mower's creek near Charlottesville, and the railroad for a distance of eight miles in the direction of Lynchburg. On the 6th of March I sent the first division, Gen. Devins commanding, to Scottsville, on the James river, with directions to send out eight parties through the country, and destroy all merchandise, mills, factories, bridges, &c., on the Rappahannock river, and parties to join the division at Scottsville. The division then proceeded along the Canal to Duguidsville, 15 miles from Lynchburg, destroying every lock, and in many places the bank of the canal. Merritt accompanied this division.

The third division proceeded down the Lynchburg road to Amherst Court House destroying every bridge on the road and miles of the track. The bridges on this road are numerous and some of them 500 feet in length. We have found great abundance in the country for our men and animals. In fact, the canal had been the great feeder of Richmond. I have no opposition. Every body is bewildered by our movements. I have had no news of any kind since I left. I omitted to mention that the bridges on the railroad from Swoop's Depot on the other side of Stanton to Charlottesville were utterly destroyed. Also, all bridges for 10 miles on the Gordonsville railroad. Up to the present time we have captured fourteen pieces of artillery, eleven at Waynesboro' and three at Charlottesville. The party that I sent back from Waynesboro' started with six pieces but they were obliged to destroy two of the six for the want of animals. The remaining eight pieces were thoroughly destroyed. We have captured up to the present time twelve canal boats laden with supplies, ammunition, rations, medical stores, &c. I cannot speak in too good terms of Gen. Merritt, Custer and Devins and the officers and men of their commands. They have waded through mud and water during the continuous rain and are all in fine spirits and health.

Commodore Hollins of the rebel navy was shot near Gordonsville while attempting to make his escape from our advance force in that direction. Very respectfully,

Your obt. serv't,

P. H. SHERIDAN, Maj. Gen. Com'g.

WASHINGTON, March 14, 11 A. M.

To Maj. Gen. Dix.

Dispatches direct from Gens. Sherman and Schofield have been received this morning by this Department.

Gen. Sherman's dispatches were dated March 8th, at Laurel Hill, N. C. He says:

"We are well and have done finely."